

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 5 and ending on page 1, line 10 with the following replacement paragraph:

This patent application is related to concurrently filed patent applications, "Logical Ports in Trunking," by Surya Varanasi____, filed on _____, October 31, 2003, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/699,567____, (attorney docket 003-P004); and "Load Balancing in Core-edge Configurations~~Frame Traffic Balancing in Core Edge Configurations~~," by Surya Varanasi____, filed on _____, October 31, 2003, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/699,568____, (attorney docket 003-P003), both of the foregoing assigned to the assignee of the presently claimed subject matter and herein incorporated by reference.